

STATEMENT BY:
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58th WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION (WIPO)
SERIES OF ASSEMBLIES

September 24 2018 to October 2, 2018
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Thank you Mr. President

WIPO Director General,

Honourable Ministers,

Excellences,

Distinguished delegates,

Mr President allow me to express our sincere condolences for the passing away of President Tran Dai Quang of Vietnam.

I would like to join other delegations in congratulating you on your appointment as the President of the 58th series of meetings of the General Assemblies of WIPO Member States, and assure you and your bureau of Botswana's full support to ensure a successful conclusion of the General Assemblies. My delegation also wishes to thank and congratulate the outgoing President and his officers for the hard-work and leadership over the past two years.

My delegation wishes to thank the Director General and his staff for the hard work in preparing for these Assemblies.

Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegation of Morocco on behalf of the Africa Group.

Mr. President,

My delegation congratulates the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents for keeping open the discussions on the topics discussed at its twenty-eighth session. The topic on patents and health is critical to my country for accessing affordable and essential medicines for a sustainable public health system. The proposal to have an information session on publicly accessible databases on patent information status and data on medicines and vaccines will provide important information required for procurement of medicines in my country.

We recognise the work of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications for the progress made on the Design Law Treaty and hope that this General Assembly will conclude to convene a Diplomatic Conference to consider and adopt the Design Law Treaty with provisions on disclosure.

My delegation also recognises the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, particularly progress made on the protection of broadcasting organisations, and we hope that this General Assembly will consider convening a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, subject to reaching consensus on fundamental issues, that is, objectives, specific scope and object of protection.

My delegation observes with concern the lack of progress with regards to the work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC). The

protection of traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions and geographical indications has been under discussion for more than a decade, and yet not much progress has been made.

Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to express gratitude for the support WIPO extends to Botswana for the development and growth of her intellectual property (IP) system. Botswana has been designated as a WIPO Model IP Office for Africa. The completion of the Model IP Office project will ensure a modern and efficient IP processing system in Botswana.

WIPO has also supported my country with the development of a National IP Policy which was completed in April 2018. The overall objective of the Policy is to ensure that the entire IP governance framework contributes to fostering the use of the country's IP potential for inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development.

Regarding the Marrakesh Treaty, we received support to implement a pilot project for capacity building to convert printed materials into accessible formats under the Accessible Books Consortium. The project was completed in June 2018, and outcome of the project will go a long way to promote conversion of printed materials into accessible formats for the print disabled. This project demonstrated the tangible benefits and value of the Marrakesh Treaty. Lastly WIPO is supporting Botswana to establish Technology Innovation Support Centres (TISC's). The principal objective of

the project will be to stimulate innovation and develop Botswana into a knowledge-based economy that will be globally competitive.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reiterate that national and regional processes on the protection of traditional knowledge, cultural expression/folklore and genetic resources as well as other intellectual property issues can only benefit from an emerging consensus within the international community at large [by working towards a common purpose]. My delegation looks forward to a constructive dialogue and commits itself to working with other member states towards decisions that will continue to grow the global IP landscape.

Thank you, Mr. President,